(ग) व (ङ) पर्यटन का व्यापक विकास हासिल करने के उद्देश्य से राज्य सरकार ने नई पर्यटन नीति और कर लाभों को शामिल करते हुए कई प्रोत्साहन घोषित किए हैं । राज्य सरकार ने क्षेत्र विकास योजना भी तैयार की है तथा पर्यटन सेक्टर में निजी निवेश को आकर्षित करने के लिए कार्यवाई की गई है ।

**Lifting of Restrictions on Tourism in the N.E. region**

2316. SHRI TARACHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lift the restrictions on tourism in North East region to boost tourism;

(b) if so, details thereof with names of States to be benefited with this move;

(c) whether Government propose to launch some additional schemes to attract domestic tourists to sight-seeing places of Assam; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) to (d) In order to boost tourism in the North Eastern Region, restrictions have completely been lifted from Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura since May, 1995. The proposals made by other States of the North East Region for relaxation of restrictions are under examination in consultation with the concerned agencies.

The steps taken to encourage tourism in the North Eastern Region include emphasis on development of infrastructure, human resource development and wide publicity of tourist attractions of the region. Department of Tourism has also identified Guwahati, Kaziranga Shillong-Tawang as a travel circuit for intensive and integrated development.

For the development of tourism in in Assam, Department of Tourism in consultation with State Government has identified 11 projects estimated at Rs. 219 lakhs for Central Financial Assistance during 1997-98.

**Setting up of five-star and Heritage Hotels by ITDC**

2317. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether I.T.D.C. have decided to set up a few more new five-star and heritage hotels to expand existing ones;

(b) whether such move will affect hotel business of I.T.D.C.; and

(c) if so, steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The construction/reconstruction/expansion of 5-Star Hotels by ITDC would and new destinations in the Ashok Group or Hotels, enable ITDC to exploit high potential of prime/strategic locations, provide competitive edge and more number of hotel rooms which will enhance profitability of ITDC.

(c) ITDC's 9th Five Year Plan include plan scheme for construction/reconstruction of the following 5-Star hotels:

1. Construction of a 100-room, 5-Star hotel at Chandigarh.

2. Reconstruction of the existing 205-room, 3-Star Lodi Hotel into a 310-room, 5-Star Deluxe Suite Hotel.

In addition, it also envisages expansion of Laxmi Vilas Palace Heritage Grand Hotel, Udaipur and Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort.